



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

[Docket ID BSEE-2023-0008; EEEE500000 234E1700D2 ET1SF0000.EAQ000;

OMB Control Number 1014-0005]

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) proposes to renew an information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on this information collection request (ICR) by either of the following methods listed below:

- Electronically go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter BSEE-2023-0008 then click search. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view all related materials. We will post all comments.
- Email [nikki.mason@bsee.gov](mailto:nikki.mason@bsee.gov), fax (703) 787-1546, or mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; Regulations and Standards Branch; ATTN: Nikki Mason; 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166. Please reference OMB Control Number 1014-0005 in the subject line of your comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Nikki Mason by email at [nikki.mason@bsee.gov](mailto:nikki.mason@bsee.gov) or by telephone

at (703) 787-1607. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States. You may also view the ICR at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the PRA and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), all information collections require approval under the PRA. We may not conduct, or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we invite the public and other Federal agencies to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic,

mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

*Abstract:* The information collected under 30 CFR part 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates is used in our efforts to make decisions on the economic viability of leases requesting a suspension or elimination of royalty or net profit share. These decisions have enormous monetary impact on both the lessee and the Federal government. Royalty relief can lead to increased production of natural gas and oil, creating profits for lessees, and royalty and tax revenues for the Federal government that they might not otherwise receive. We could not make an informed decision without the collection of information required by 30 CFR part 203.

*Title of Collection:* 30 CFR part 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates.

*OMB Control Number:* 1014-0005.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Potential respondents include Federal OCS oil, gas, and sulfur lessees and/or operators and holders of pipeline rights-of-way.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* Currently there are approximately 555 Federal OCS oil, gas, and sulfur lessees and holders of pipeline rights-of-way. Not

all the potential respondents will submit information in any given year, and some may submit multiple times.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 28.*

*Estimated Completion Time per Response:* Varies from 1 hour to 2,000 hours, depending on activity.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 724.*

*Respondent's Obligation:* Some responses are mandatory; while others are required to obtain or retain a benefit.

*Frequency of Collection:* Submissions are generally on occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: \$27,950.*

An agency may not conduct, or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Kirk Malstrom,**

*Chief, Regulations and Standards Branch.*

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